

the document's signatories. The original document will be transported from the State Archives in Albany, New York and will be on display at the Queens Borough Public Library, Flushing, during the official celebration.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 350th anniversary of the Flushing Remonstrance, a document that pioneered the right to religious freedom in America and throughout the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 867, H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I was inadvertently detained. I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall Nos. 868 and 869, I was also detained. I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1657, Science and Technology Scholarships and "aye" on H.R. 3527, Extending Authorities for the Overseas Investment Corporation—Private.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

Fifty years ago today, on September 25, 1957, 9 African American students who would come to be known as the Little Rock Nine—Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls—successfully integrated Little Rock Central High. With strength, determination, and dignity, the Little Rock Nine stood up to the inequities and injustices of their time.

The Little Rock Nine realized that the promise of the 1954 *Brown v. Board* (347 U.S. 483) was unfulfilled 3 years later in 1957. The *Brown* decision recognized that the segregation of public schools deprived students of the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection. Continued segregation on the basis of race was to be no more. Armed with the *Brown v. Board* decision, the Little Rock Nine would successfully dismantle years of school segregation.

Implementing the law of the land, the actions of the Little Rock Nine were symbolic of the promise of educational access and equality not just in Little Rock, but in cities throughout the nation. The Little Rock Nine conveyed that "separate, but equal" would have no place in this country. Despite death threats,

verbal and physical assaults, school closings, and other adversities, the Little Rock Nine persevered in their mission of school integration.

And despite the violence that was inflicted upon them, the Little Rock Nine did as Dr. King instructed: "[M]eet physical force with soul force." On September 26, 1957, Dr. King urged the people of Little Rock to "adhere rigorously to a way of non-violence," and they did. The Little Rock Nine not only furthered the Civil Rights Movement's strategy of non-violence, but proved that ordinary citizens, and young citizens like themselves, could bring about change. Just as Rosa Park's refusal to give up her seat led to integration of public accommodations, the Little Rock Nine's refusal to be denied an education led to integration of public schools.

Members of the Little Rock Nine went on to become social workers, educators, government officials, and other distinguished professionals. In 1999, the Little Rock Nine established the Little Rock Nine Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to advancing educational access and opportunities for young people of color—a commitment that reflects the significant and historic role of the Little Rock Nine in the Civil Rights Movement and within the realm of education.

Today, because of the Little Rock Nine, our country's children, regardless of race, are entitled to fair and equal education. In furthering this entitlement, the Congress must continue to work to promote racial diversity, integration, and inclusion within our Nation's schools. It is our responsibility to continue the legacy of *Brown v. Board* and the Little Rock Nine. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine integrating Little Rock Central High is symbolic of this commitment.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA AND GROUNDS OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO TENZIN GYATSO, THE FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago—in October of 1987—His Holiness the Dalai Lama came here to Washington for the purpose of sharing with the leaders of our country his mission to end the systematic abuse by the People's Republic of China of the fundamental human rights of the people of Tibet.

In that effort, His Holiness did not have much success.

For fear offending the People's Republic of China, President Reagan chose not to meet with him.

At the Department of State, it was the same story.

But at the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which I founded and of which I was then—and remain—co-chairman, we decided in the face of much protest to give to the Dalai Lama the forum he deserved. To this day, I am proud of that decision.

And I am proud that, just as this body was the first in our Government to give the Dalai Lama a venue to speak on behalf of his people, we will take the lead again and honor him with the Congressional Gold Medal.

I have come to know the Dalai Lama is one of our era's greatest moral heroes, sharing a commitment to peace of other great leaders of our time, including Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

At a time in history when national grievances are often expressed in the most strident language and when political violence and rage are everywhere, the Dalai Lama speaks with a different voice. Instead of hating his opponents, he recognizes the humanity of those who are oppressing his people. Always, he seeks to find the path to harmony and peace.

"I speak not with a feeling of anger or hatred toward those who are responsible for the immense suffering of our people and the destruction of our land, homes and culture," said His Holiness in his Nobel Lecture. "They, too, are human beings who struggle to find happiness and deserve our compassion. I speak to inform you of the sad situation in my country today and of the aspirations of my people, because in our struggle for freedom, truth is the only weapon we possess."

We have before us today, a resolution whose purpose is to authorize the use, on October 17, of the rotunda of the Capitol as the venue for the ceremony at which my dear friend, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, will receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

That is an appropriate location. The Capitol is the great symbol of American freedom—and of hope to millions around the world. Who better to be honored there?

I strongly support the resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO MARINE CPL CARLOS OROZCO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Cpl. Carlos Gil Orozco, who died on September 10th while out on patrol in Al-Anbar province.

In 1993, Carlos and his family immigrated to San Jose, California from Colombia, in search of a better life. Carlos graduated from Willow Glen High School, and later decided to join the Marines with the support of his family. Carlos was described by friends as a good American, who will be sorely missed. More than 300 mourners gathered in downtown San Jose this past Monday to attend his memorial service.

On behalf of this Congress and California's 16th Congressional District, I offer Carlos's family our deepest condolences as they cope with this painful loss. We are so thankful for his dedicated service to our country. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carlos's family and friends.